

VOL. XVI.

GEN. MILES IS MAD.

He Declares that He Will Resign if a Certain Bill Passes.

SECRETARY OF WAR'S SCHEME

To Promote Interest of Personal Friends Without Regard to Rank for Service. Miles Charges Favoritism

Gen. Nelson A. Miles Thursday told the senate committee on military affairs that if the bill introduced by Senator Hawley at the instance of the war department for the organization of a general staff for the army should become a law he would decline to longer hold his commission. The reason he gave for the statement is that the bill is utterly subversive of the interests of the military establishment, and he said that he would not be a party to such a proceeding to the extent even of continuing to hold his place.

The statement was made in the course of a prolonged hearing by the committee which was conducted behind closed doors, and in which Gen. Miles touched upon a variety of subjects connected with the army. The portion of the bill which directed his special criticism is that contained in section 7, reading as follows:

MAKE GENERAL A FIGUREHEAD.

"That from and after the passage of this act the senior general officer of the army shall be assigned to command such portion of the army as the president may direct, or be detailed to duty in general staff corps. All duties prescribed by law for the commanding general of the army shall be performed by the chief of general staff, or other general officer designated by the secretary of war. Provided, that so long as the present lieutenant general of the army continues on the active list he shall be the chief of the general staff, and upon the separation from active service of the said lieutenant general of the army, said officer, except as herein provided shall cease and determine."

WOULD DESTROY UNITY OF ARMY.

Gen. Miles said that if this provision should become a law it would have the effect of destroying the unity of the army, including Napoleon Wellington, Washington, Cass and Grant to show the necessity of having one head to the army and of controlling authority. His own experience and observation had, he said, had the effect of confirming these views and he gave an illustration of its beneficial effect in time of emergency, instancing the beginning of the war with Spain.

"I heard at midnight," he said, "that the Spanish fleet had been located definitely at Santiago, and hastened to the home of Secretary Long, where the news was confirmed. I sat down there, in the secretary's house and wrote a dispatch, directing him to start immediately for Santiago with the result that the army was soon on its way to the point where its presence was needed. Suppose," he added, exhibiting the message which he had sent to Gen. Shafter, "I had been compelled to get around to a dozen or more majors, as many colonels and any number of generals constituting a general staff."

SCHEME OF THE SECRETARY.

Then he added that in all probability the senior general of the army would not under the provision he had quoted have been in position to do anything, and he called attention to the clause relieving him (the senior general) of command and making it possible for any other officer to be appointed. He declared that under section 7 it would be competent to one day promote a captain to the position of a brigadier and the next day to make him chief of staff, thus practically placing a captain at the head of the army. "Turning to somewhat the other side," he said, "the bill was calculated to accomplish no purpose except to add to the secretary of war and the adjutant general to promote the interest of their personal favorites."

WHY THE DELAY AT TAMPA.

Gen. Miles was questioned as to the reasons for locating the American army of occupation at Tampa and holding it there so long with the resulting congestion. Replying to the first question, he said that the cause of the delay was due, he said, to the fact that the American army was supplied with only 64 rounds of ammunition which would not have been sufficient for more than half an hour of fighting. Considering that Havana was one of the best fortified cities in the world, he said that to have attacked it would have been foolhardy in the extreme. He declined, however, to criticize the then secretary of war, Gen. Alger, for the condition of affairs, saying that probably any one else in the position would have done about what he did. He laid the general blame for this condition of unpreparedness at the door of congress.

KNOWS THE FAVORITES.

In the course of his remarks Gen. Miles told the committee in confidence that with the bill a law he could now name the men who would hold the places of honor provided under it but the committee did not ask for the names.

BOOT'S ENDORSEMENT.

The printed report of the testimony of Secretary Root before the military committee on this bill was made public Thursday. In his statement the secretary stated that the general staff of the army as it is proposed to constitute it under this bill would be simply an advisory board and that its principal duty would be that of an advisory board.

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"We feel confident that every man, woman and child will consider it an honor and a privilege to contribute to this fund. I write to ask if it would be possible for you to appoint some day and have a collection taken up in all the schools for this fund? If each child gave five cents, I am sure it would amount to a goodly sum. There is a rule in our city schools that no collection shall be taken up, but I am going to make a special appeal to the board, and have the sanction of the chairman to do so. It is the desire of the women of the south that the collection be made on or about June 3, 1902, and each State is earnestly requested to act promptly in adding to the funds now on hand."

Superintendent McMahon thinks that in connection with the taking up of the contributions, there should be exercises commemorative of Jefferson Davis, and of the Confederacy. These would serve not only to interest, but to instruct the children of the schools and the people of the community. In order to assist the teachers in devising an attractive and significant programme, he will issue a pamphlet, which Miss Withers is now preparing with the assistance of several teachers of the State. Of course, Jefferson Davis's birthday would be the best time for such an exercise, except that it comes after most of the schools will have closed. Memorial day, the 10th of May, will, therefore, be designated. As many country schools, however, will close much earlier, they are asked to fix each a day for itself in connection with its closing exercises, and give the children of the school and the people of the neighborhood the opportunity to contribute something towards this monument to the south's great leader in the Lost Cause.

Rescue of Crew.

A special from Morehead City N. C., says the United States revenue cutter Algonquin, stationed at this port, has just arrived there with Capt. Garay and crew of 27 men from the Spanish steamer "Ea," 1,694 tons of Bilbao. The Ea sailed from Fernandina, Fla., March 13, for New York with a cargo of 2,500 barrels rosin and 2,500 tons phosphate. When off Cape Lookout shoals, March 13, at 9 a. m., she went aground and high seas and brisk southerly to northeasterly winds prevented assistance of life-saving crew. The steamer broke in two this morning and is a total loss with her cargo. By a combination of the efforts of the life-saving crew and the revenue cutter the crew of the Ea was taken at the last minute off the bridge of the vessel after having remained without food and water since Saturday.

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